

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 13910 161024Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /088 W  
-----095648 161041Z /10

P 161016Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3192  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
USINT HAVANA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
USICA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, UR, US  
SUBJECT: HARSH SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF PRESIDENT'S  
PRESS CONFERENCE

1. JUNE 16 PRAVDA CARRIES TASS WASHINGTON PIECE ON  
PRESIDENT'S JUNE 14 PRESS CONFERENCE. TASS ARTICLE  
IS MORE OF A TENDENTIOUS EDITORIAL ON SUBJECT THAN  
IT IS AN ATTEMPT TO REPORT THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS.

2. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) MAJOR THEMES OF TASS  
COVERAGE ARE:

-- DESPITE CASTRO'S STATEMENT THAT ADMINISTRATION'S  
CHARGES AGAINST CUBAN INTERFERENCE IN AFRICA ARE  
"COMPLETE AND ABSOLUTE LIE," PRESIDENT STILL MAIN-  
TAINED THAT CUBA WAS SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN SHABA EVENTS.  
HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT WAS UNABLE TO PRODUCE A SINGLE  
FACT TO BACK UP THIS "GROUNDLESS FABRICATION."

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-- PRESIDENT "MISCONSTRUED (IZVRATIL)" SOVIET AND  
CUBAN POLICY IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND "SHIELDED"  
THE U.S. POSITION "WHICH SUPPORTED AND IS SUPPORTING  
THE EXPANSIONIST ASPIRATIONS OF SOMALIA." PRESI-  
DENT'S DISCUSSION OF ERITREA - AS THOUGH IT WERE NOT  
PART OF ETHIOPIA - ESPECIALLY ON EVE OF SIAD BARRE'S

ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON, MUST BE INTERPRETED AS  
PREPARATION FOR INCREASED SUPPLY OF U.S. ARMS TO  
SOMALIA AND "UTILIZATION OF EXPANSIONIST ASPIRATIONS  
OF MOGADISCIO TO THE DETRIMENT OF TERRITORIAL  
INTEGRITY AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF ETHIOPIA."

-- PRESIDENT, BY HIS ANSWER TO QUESTION ON WILMINGTON  
TEN, IGNORED DEMANDS OF U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL  
PUBLIC OPINION ON THE LIBERATION OF POLITICAL  
PRISONERS IN THE U.S. (END UNCLASSIFIED)

3. COMMENT: (BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) HARSH AND  
TENDENTIOUS MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S  
REMARKS HAS RECENTLY BECOME COMMON PLACE ALTHOUGH  
WE WOULD NOTE THAT THIS IS STILL UNUSUAL PROCEDURE  
FOR SOVIET HANDLING OF CHIEF OF STATE. WE ALSO NOTE,  
HOWEVER, THAT IT IS PRESIDENT'S REMARKS WHICH ARE  
CRITICIZED AND NOT - IN CONTRAST TO BRZEZINSKI -  
THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY. THUS, SOVIETS STILL  
HAVE SEVERAL NOTCHES TO GO AS THEY ESCALATE THEIR  
EXPRESSIONS OF DISPLEASURE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S  
POLICIES AND STATEMENTS. MATLOCK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, PROPAGANDA, PRESS CONFERENCES, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 2322818  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HARSH SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE  
**TAGS:** PEPR, SOPN, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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